

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 ICA-11 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-10
EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 LAB-04
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R 021412Z JUNE 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231
INFO USMMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

PASS USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD
SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMODITIES: JUTE

REF: STATE 131760

1. BARBARA AGOSTINI, FAO JUTE EXPERT, ASKED FODAG OFFICER TO COME IN AND BRIEF HER ON USG'S POSITION ON DRAFT UNCTAD PAPER ENTITLED "A SCHEME FOR STABILIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RAW JUTE MARKET" FAO IS ONLY NOW COMMENTING ON THIS DOCUMENT. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS IN ROME GOING OVER DRAFT WITH FAO AS CHANGED ON BASIS OF COMMENTS AT CONSUMERS MEETING IN GENEVA.

2. FODAG OFFICER REVIEWED WITH MRS. AGOSTINI USG'S POSITION PER REFTEL. SHE AGREES WITH POSITION THAT ONE CANNOT STABILIZE JUTE MARKET BY A STOCKING SCHEME FOR RAW JUTE IN BANGLADESH. RAW JUTE IS BECOMING RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT IN WORLD TRADE AND PRODUCER NATIONAL INDUSTRIES ARE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON SUPPLY AND PRICE.
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THIS ARGUMENT ALSO IS VALID IN ARGING AGAINST A SCHEME LIMITED TO BANGLADESH AND IGNORING INDIA. THUS MRS. AGOSTINI IF ANYTHING LEANS TOWARD NORDIC PROPOSAL RATHER THAT EC PROPOSAL WHICH IS ONLY DESIGNED TO HAVE LITMITED HELP TO ANTIQUATED EC JUTE MILL PRODUCTION.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, MRS. AGOSTINI DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE
ABLE TO MAKE MANY CHANGES IN DRAFT SCHEME AND SAID UNCTAD'S
CHANGES BASED ON PRODUCER MEETING IN GENEVA ARE MINOR. SHE
ALSO DOES NOT HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF WHEN FINAL VERSION WILL
BE READY.

4. FODAG'S DRAFT OF SCHEME DOES INCLUDE ANNEX II. IT
ASSIGNS USG A 3.5 PERCENT SHARE OF WORLD RAW JUTE
IMPORTS WHICH UNDER A DOL. 25.5 MILLION FUND WOULD COST USG
DOL. 890,000 IF ALL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED. FODAG IS POUCHING
ANNEX II. TO MARSHALL ADAIR, EB/ORF/TRP. GARDNER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** ONLY

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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